



# Husky Talk Newsletter

High Point Academy Thursday, September 15, 2016 Volume 11, Issue 3

Our mission is to provide a strong foundation of academic excellence in partnership with family and community in which each individual is challenged to achieve his/her highest potential academically, socially, and personally.

*Keri Melmed*  
Chief Academic  
Officer/Principal

*Chad Miller*  
Chief Business  
Officer

*Michele Garver*  
Elementary School  
Assistant Principal

*Jackson Westenskow*  
Middle School  
Assistant Principal

*Juanise Cornell*  
Dean of Students

*Barbara Hill*  
Director of  
Communications

*Erica Wood*  
Director of Student  
Services

*Teresa Frasier*  
Office Manager

*Sharla Williams*  
Enrollment  
Coordinator

*Amanda Delgado*  
Medical Assistant

*Michael Fields*  
Governing Board  
President

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If you're on Facebook, like High Point Academy to receive school updates in your newsfeed.

## Power Hour

Power Hour – Our FREE afterschool tutoring program starts September 6<sup>th</sup> from 4-5pm. Students can receive tutoring support and/or homework support. Students must have assignments to complete to attend. If students do not have assignments, they will be asked to leave or placed in Husky PACK at parent expense.

## Picture Day

School picture day will be Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> all day. Forms to order your child's picture are coming home in Thursday folders today. You can also order online by [clicking here](#) and clicking on enter your school code (30041001). Students must be in their uniform polo for these pictures (no Husky wear; it is a jean day and students can wear jeans for \$1). Since hoodies are not allowed for pictures, please make sure your child has a uniform color polo shirt on under any hoodie that is worn that day.

## PTO UPDATE!!!

PTO meetings have been moved to the second Thursday of the month starting at 6pm. Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, October 13 at 6:00pm. Childcare will continue to be provided.

We are still looking for a Secretary and Treasurer. Please like us on [Facebook @ HPA PTO](#)

## HPA Garden

We have a few upcoming garden volunteer days. Parents and students are invited to come and help. These events help us to maintain our garden to cafeteria program.

- Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 9-11am
- Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 4-5pm
- Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 9-11pm
- Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 4-5pm

We hope you will join us!

[Click here to Meet the Learning Support Team](#)

## Volunteer Training

We have several volunteer trainings taking place during parent teacher conferences on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30pm and 6:00pm and September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30pm and 6:30pm

If you are interested in working in a classroom, going on field trips, or helping at the school and have not completed the training in previous years, you need to attend this training and clear a background check before going into classrooms. Please RSVP to Erica Wood at [ewood@highpointacademy.net](mailto:ewood@highpointacademy.net) or 303-217-5152 if you are planning to attend. If you have completed the training in a previous year you need to complete the background check annually. Please email Erica Wood to get the form to complete this process.

## 2016-2017 Colorguard

High Point Academy Colorguard is now accepting new members, K-8 boys and girls, through the end of October. Practices are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:15-7:30 pm at the school. Interested in more information? Come to the parent information meeting on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm or email Kathy Frazier, HPA Colorguard Coach, at [katfrazi77@msn.com](mailto:katfrazi77@msn.com).

## Girl Scouts

There will be a parent information night on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Green Valley Ranch Library. Bring your girls to get a taste of scouting and receive more information on joining a troop. For more information before the meeting, please contact Heather Browning at [heather.browning77@gmail.com](mailto:heather.browning77@gmail.com) or 303.668.5785.

## Husky Wear

Did you see HPA's Husky Wear items? Visit <http://denver.educationalfitters.com/find-my-school/high-point-academy/> to order your polo shirts, hoodies, jackets, and much more.

## Important Dates:

**September 17:** Garden Day 9-11am

**September 20:** Power Hour 4-5pm

**September 20:** Volleyball Game vs Strive Prep GVR at 5:00pm at Evie Dennis Campus

**September 20:** Flag Football Game HPA Green vs HPA Gold at 5:00pm at the High Point Field

**September 21 & 22:** Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00pm

**September 21:** Volunteer Training 4:30pm and 6:00pm

**September 22:** Volunteer Training 4:30pm and 6:30pm

**September 23:** NO SCHOOL

**September 23:** Cross Country Meet at Strive Prep Lake at 5:00pm

**September 26:** Volleyball Game vs Global Village Academy B Team at 4:30pm at Global Village Academy

**September 27:** Power Hour 4-5pm

**September 27:** Flag Football Game HPA Green vs. Vanguard East at 5:30pm at High Point Field

**September 28:** Governing Board Meeting 7-9am

**September 28:** Volleyball Game vs. Omar D. Blair at 4:30pm at GVR Rec Center

**September 29:** Garden Day 4-5pm

**September 29:** Color-guard Parent Info Meeting 6:00pm

**September 30:** School Picture Day

**September 30:** Jean Day \$1

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## Families Looking for Carpool Help

Helping other HPA families by carpooling is a great way to build community as well as earn your parent volunteer hours. The following families are looking for help getting their children either to school or home from school. If you can help please contact Erica Wood at [ewood@highpointacademy.net](mailto:ewood@highpointacademy.net)

- Morning carpool help needed from Singletree area (58th Drive).
- Afternoon carpool help needed from 40th and Mitchell.
- Afternoon carpool help on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday needed to 6th Ave. and Chambers Rd. area.

## Donation and Volunteer Opportunities

- **Volleyball Volunteers:** Parent volunteers are needed to help keep score at upcoming volleyball games on October 3 from 4:15-5:30pm; October 4 from 5:00-6:15pm; October 19 from 5:15-6:30pm; and October 25 from 4:45-6:00pm. Please contact Erica Wood at [ewood@highpointacademy.net](mailto:ewood@highpointacademy.net) if you are interested in helping.
- **Donations Needed:** Ms. Schmidt is in need of a 5 or 10 gallon used fish tank, various size shoe boxes, and a tri-fold poster board if anyone would be willing to donate. If so, please email her at [jschmidt@highpointacademy.net](mailto:jschmidt@highpointacademy.net).
- **The Art class is starting a plastic cap drive for a school mural.** We are looking for any plastic caps that screw on (i.e. water bottle caps, orange juice caps, Gatorade caps, peanut butter caps, etc.). We need large caps too (hair products, ice cream containers, and food products). There will be a drop off station in the front hallway of the school.
- **Picture Day Volunteers:** School picture day is on Friday, September 30 this year from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Parent volunteers are needed to make this day run smoothly. If you are interested in helping from 8:00am to 12:00pm or 12:00pm to 3:00pm please contact Erica Wood at [ewood@highpointacademy.net](mailto:ewood@highpointacademy.net). Parents wanting to volunteer on picture day will have to have completed the volunteer training and have an updated background check on file.
- **Hearing and Vision Volunteers:** Vision and hearing testing is October 10 through October 13. We need 10 volunteers each day from 8:15am to 3:15pm (half-day shifts are available); lunch will be provided. If you are interested please contact Erica Wood at [ewood@highpointacademy.net](mailto:ewood@highpointacademy.net).
- **Outdoor Education Donations:** Calling all 7th and 8th grade families! The sixth grade team is looking for donations of equipment and clothing that your child may have worn during their outdoor education trip in sixth grade. If you have any items that your child has outgrown, but are still in good condition that you are willing to donate, please contact Mrs. Cummins at [acummins@highpointacademy.net](mailto:acummins@highpointacademy.net).



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## Message from the Principal

Dear HPA Families,

We look forward to seeing families and students in the building for parent-teacher conferences next week on Wednesday and Thursday evening from 4-8pm. Please take time to meet with your child's teacher(s). Our goal is to meet with each family. Fall conferences are extremely important, as they are a starting point for teachers and parents to develop positive relationships. When teachers and parents are on the same page, and each feels comfortable approaching the other, it sets the stage for a much more successful partnership, which will enhance students' academic achievement and well-being throughout the year.

At conferences, teachers may go over our new grading practices. As a school, we have three goals that we are working to achieve by the end of this school year. Here are the highlights of our new grading system:

Separating student behaviors (effort, responsibility, participation, behavior) from content understanding.

This means you may see two grades for each course/class. One reflects what your child knows and is able to do according to the Colorado state standards. Another that reflects your child's effort, responsibility, participation i.e. attributes that are important for being a successful student.

Why is this important? When we separate content understanding and other variables such as behavior and responsibility we can more accurately assess where students struggle and what support they need to growth.

Communicating student achievement towards Colorado state standards

This means that you may see assignments, tests, quizzes, etc. listed in PowerSchool Gradebook as standards. For example, instead of "worksheet 2.5" you may now see it listed as "I can support my opinion by using evidence from a text."

In grades 2, 5, and 8 you will also see your child's proficiency toward standards communicated by either a BEG (beginning understanding of standard), DEV (developing proficiency toward the standard), ACC (accomplished the standard), or EXC (exceeding beyond the standard).

Why is this important? The purpose of standards-based grading is to identify what a student knows, or is able to do, in relation to pre-established learning targets, as opposed to simply averaging grades/scores over the course of a grading period, which can mask what a student has learned, or not learned, in a specific course. By communicating your child's progress through our state standards you will have a more accurate picture of where they are in relation to state expectations.

Standards-based reporting rollout and pilot

We are moving toward standard-based grading. As a school we are excited to provide you and your child a much clearer picture of how they are performing toward our state standards. We are just beginning our transition to standards-based grading. To help guide this process, iron out the kinks, and figure out how best to communicate your child's learning, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams are leading this work. This means not every grade level is reporting in this manner, yet. Our goal is to rollout school-wide standards reporting second semester or 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

Why is this important? While we are committed to providing each family at HPA a standards-based report, we knew there would be systemic and operational hiccups that could only be identified and solved through live implementation. To address any issue that may arise, we created a plan that included 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades as our pilots. Our plan includes opportunities for parents to learn more about this approach, as well as opportunities for parents to provide feedback and input. By 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter each grade level will be reporting out in this manner.

To learn more about standards-based grading, please attend one of the information sessions that will be held over Parent/Teacher conferences: Wednesday, September 21 at 5:00pm or Thursday, September 22 at 6pm. I will share much more about why this work is important and how it supports students, teachers, and families. If you are unable to attend, there will be other information nights in October and November. For your information, we have included multiple resources (links below) about standards-based grading.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1joKyXSX0Cbb4OceawsXu-sOvgVYf3-KwhFXAIMRd0E8/pub>

As always, please reach out with any questions, thoughts, or suggestions, my door is always open. I hope to see you all next week at conferences.

With Husky Pride,

Ms. Keri Melmed

Chief Academic Officer/Principal